

Calgary



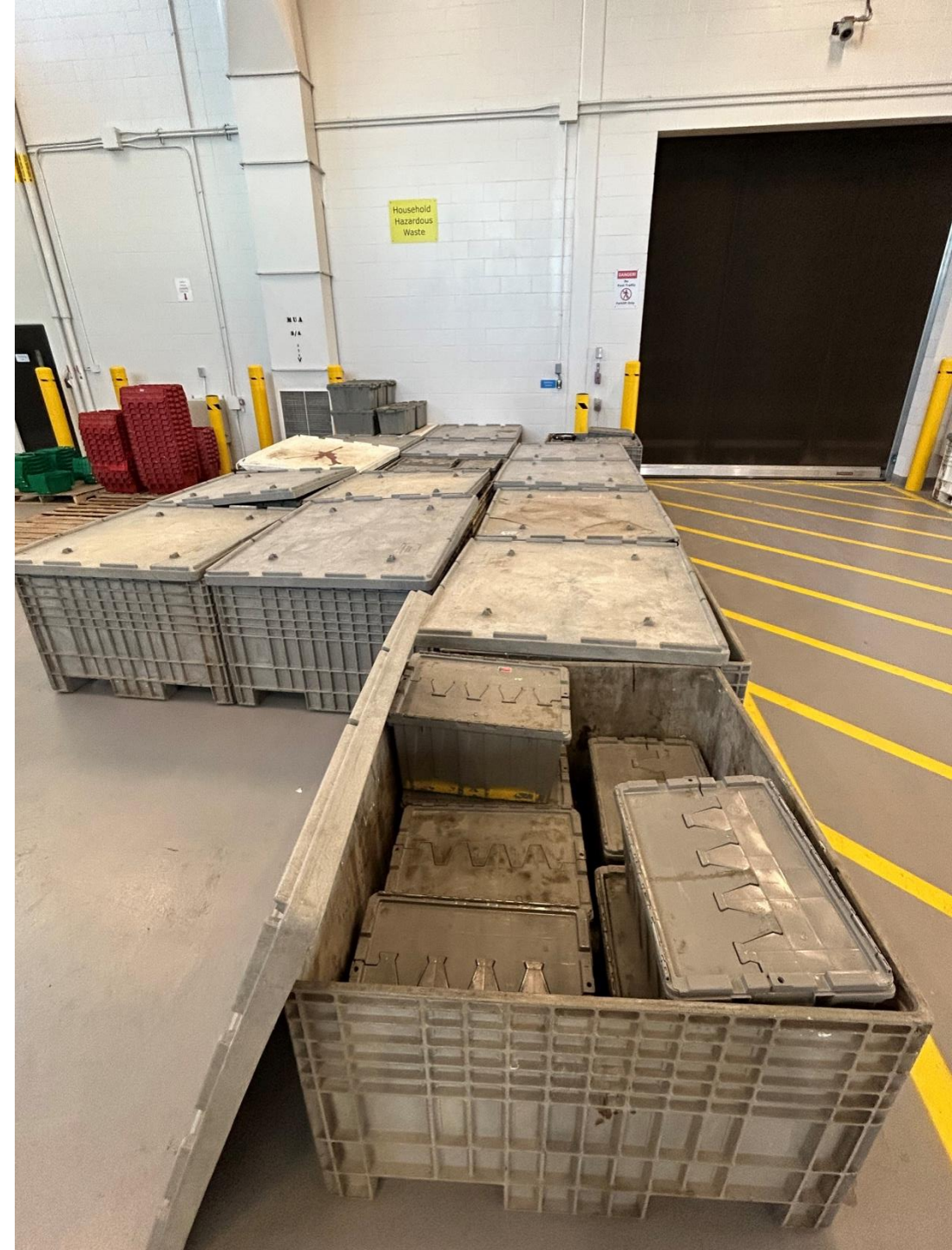
# Shifting Waste Realities: Why the HHW Program and Alberta's HSP Framework Tell Two Different Stories

**SWANA Northern Lights  
April 23, 2026**



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City of Calgary  
Waste & Recycling Services**

- HHW Program Overview
- City of Calgary HHW Program Overview
- EPR-HSP Background
- Comparison of HHW and EPR-HSP Programs
- EPR-HSP Pilot: Design and Key Findings
- Recommendations and Path Forward



- What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?
- Established in 1988 under Alberta's Action on Waste initiative
- Government-funded provincial program
- What is included?
- Oversight: Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA)
- Program Evolution: From HHW roundups to permanent depots and Eco Centres



Paint and related products



Chemicals in solid and liquid form



Compact fluorescent lights and fluorescent light tubes



Automotive fluids



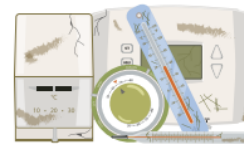
Automotive products



Spray chemicals



Bear spray



Mercury containing items



Vapes and e-cigarettes



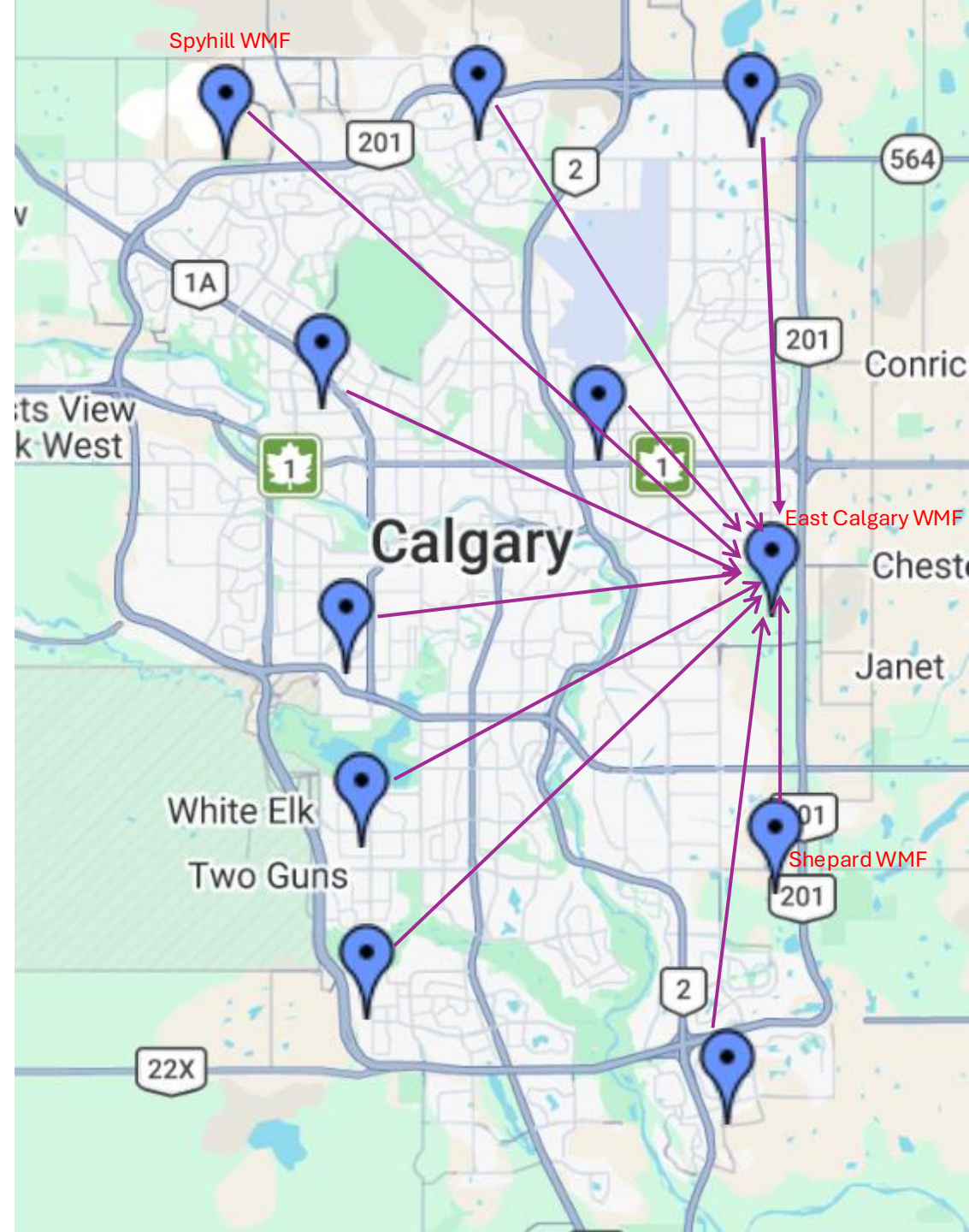
Household batteries

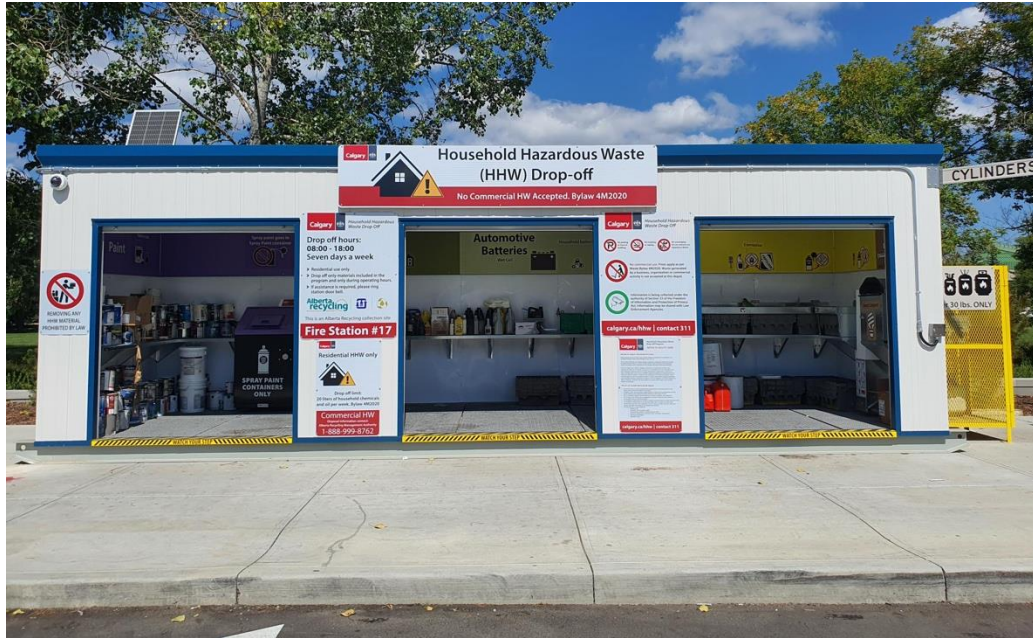


Gas cylinders and pressurized containers

## City of Calgary HHW Program

- Eight HHW depots located at fire stations
- Three Eco-Centres at Waste Management Facilities (Spyhill, East Calgary, and Shepard)
- The Transfer Station
- Chem truck drivers collect household hazardous waste daily from all city depots and Eco-Centres.
- Collected materials are sorted at Eco-Centres or transported to the Transfer Station for specialized handling.
- Paint and chemical products are consolidated at the Transfer Station





HHW Depot



Eco Centre



## Provincial Government

In 2022, the Provincial Government of Alberta announced the new mandatory EPR regulation.

## ARMA

ARMA was the provincial body designated to oversee the implementation of this regulation.

## Product Care

In early 2023, Product Care was selected as the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) for the HSP

## City of Calgary

As of April 1, 2025, Alberta launched the HSP program for municipalities like the City of Calgary that signed collection and processing agreements with the PRO.

# Program Scope Comparison - Differences

	HHW Program	HSP Program
<b>Guiding Regulation</b>	Alberta Waste Control Regulation (Alta Reg 192/1996)	Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation (Alta Reg 194/2024)
<b>Material Classification Basis</b>	Waste Control Regulation/Alberta User Guide for Waste Managers and TDG Regulations	Consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulation (SOR/2001-269) - CCCR
<b>Materials Included</b>	<p><b>Wastes</b> that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flammable and reactive (TDG Classes 3 and 4)</li> <li>Oxidizers and peroxides (TDG Class 5)</li> <li>Toxic (TDG Class 6.1)</li> <li>Corrosive (TDG Class 8)</li> <li>Miscellaneous hazardous waste (Class 9)</li> <li>Aerosols (Class 2, UN 1950)</li> </ul>	<p>Solid, liquid and gaseous <b>consumer products (and their containers)</b> that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Corrosive, Toxic or Flammable as defined in CCCR</li> <li>* Domestic pesticides</li> <li>* Batteries</li> </ul>
<b>Materials Excluded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Explosives and ammunition (TDG Class 1)</li> <li>* Compressed gases except aerosols (TDG Class 2)</li> <li>* Infectious waste (TDG Class 6.2)</li> <li>* Radioactive waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Consumer products that are explosive, reactive and poisonous</li> <li>* Ammunition</li> <li>* Infectious waste</li> <li>* Radioactive materials</li> <li>* Miscellaneous hazardous waste</li> <li>* Pressurized containers weighing more than 680 g</li> </ul>


















# Program Scope Comparison – Differences Cont.

	HHW Program	HSP Program
<b>Generators included</b>	Households (including farmers)	Not specified
<b>Generators excluded</b>	Legal generators (ICI sector)	Not specified
<b>Maximum container size</b>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 10 L or less for liquids</li> <li>* 10 kg or less for solids</li> <li>* 680 g or less for pressurized containers</li> </ul>
<b>Other exclusions</b>	Batteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Corrosive, flammable and toxic products intended for use down-the-drain during their primary intended use</li> <li>* Insect repellent intended for personal use</li> <li>* Sanitizers, disinfectants and antimicrobial products</li> <li>* Products containing &lt; 50% water-miscible flammable liquid as defined by the National Fire Code of Canada</li> <li>* Rechargeable batteries weighing more than 5 kg</li> </ul>
<b>Product must be in the original container</b>	No	Yes
<b>Specific labelling on the container required</b>	No	Yes - Containers must have CCCR-compliant label and Pest Control Products Regulation (PCPR) for domestic pesticides



## NON-HSP PRODUCTS

If the product is listed below, it's NOT an HSP product

	Name	Identifiers	Hazard symbols
IDENTIFIER	Consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulations (CCCR)	Octagon border	  
	Pest Control Products Regulations (PCPR)	Octagon or Diamond border	  <b>Signal word:</b> - DANGER - WARNING
DO NOT USE FOR IDENTIFICATION	Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) – 2015 Globally Harmonized System (GHS)	Red Diamond border	   
	Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) – 1988	Circle border	   
	Transportation of Dangerous Goods in Canada (TDG)	Diamond border and number in bottom corner	   

- ×

  - ✘ Containers sizes greater than 10L or 10kg for liquids and solids
  - ✘ Gasoline containers sizes greater than 25L
  - ✘ Pressurized containers sizes greater than 680g
  - ✘ Non-hazardous aerosols  
*E.g. Whipping cream, deodorant spray, compressed air, sunscreen, hair spray, shampoo, liquid bandage*
  - ✘ Solvents, thinners, mineral spirits, and paint strippers  
*Paint, coatings, sealers, paint thinners, and paint additives belong to the [ARMA](#) paint program*
  - ✘ Refillable fuel cylinders  
*E.g. Diesel, refillable propane cylinders*
  - ✘ Commercial, industrial, or agricultural products
  - ✘ Unidentifiable, unknown, unlabeled, and non-original containers
  - ✘ Leaking and improperly sealed products
  - ✘ Insect repellents intended for personal use
  - ✘ Products intended for use down-the-drain during their primary intended use  
*E.g. Pool products, drain openers, bathtub cleaners*
  - ✘ Oil and plumbing antifreeze
  - ✘ Masonry products, cement, grout, mortar, and plaster of Paris
  - ✘ Caulking compound
  - ✘ Cosmetics, health, and beauty aids
  - ✘ Drugs, medicines, and medical sharps
  - ✘ Wine and distilled spirits
  - ✘ Mercury switches
  - ✘ Batteries
  - ✘ Ammunition
  - ✘ Cooking oil

- Conducted in June 2025
- East Calgary HHW Transfer Station Building U
- Staff included: HHW team, and the lab packing contractor
- Objectives:
  - 1 Quantify the non-paint, non-stewardship HHW that meet the HSP definition
  - 2 Define percentage of HSP items that were excluded for various reasons (Down the drain, personal use, etc.)



## City of Calgary HSP Pilot Methodology - Objective 1

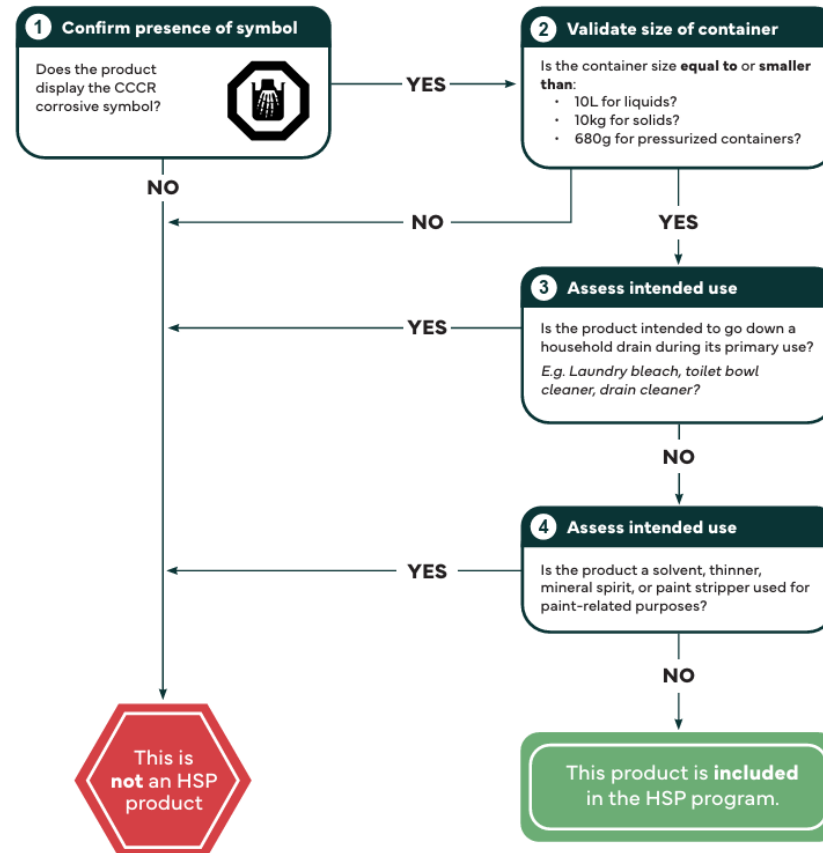
- Materials delivery
- Detailed manual sorting and material lab packing
- Segregation between HSP and non-HSP



# City of Calgary HSP Pilot Methodology - Objective 1 – Decision Tree Example

Category 1

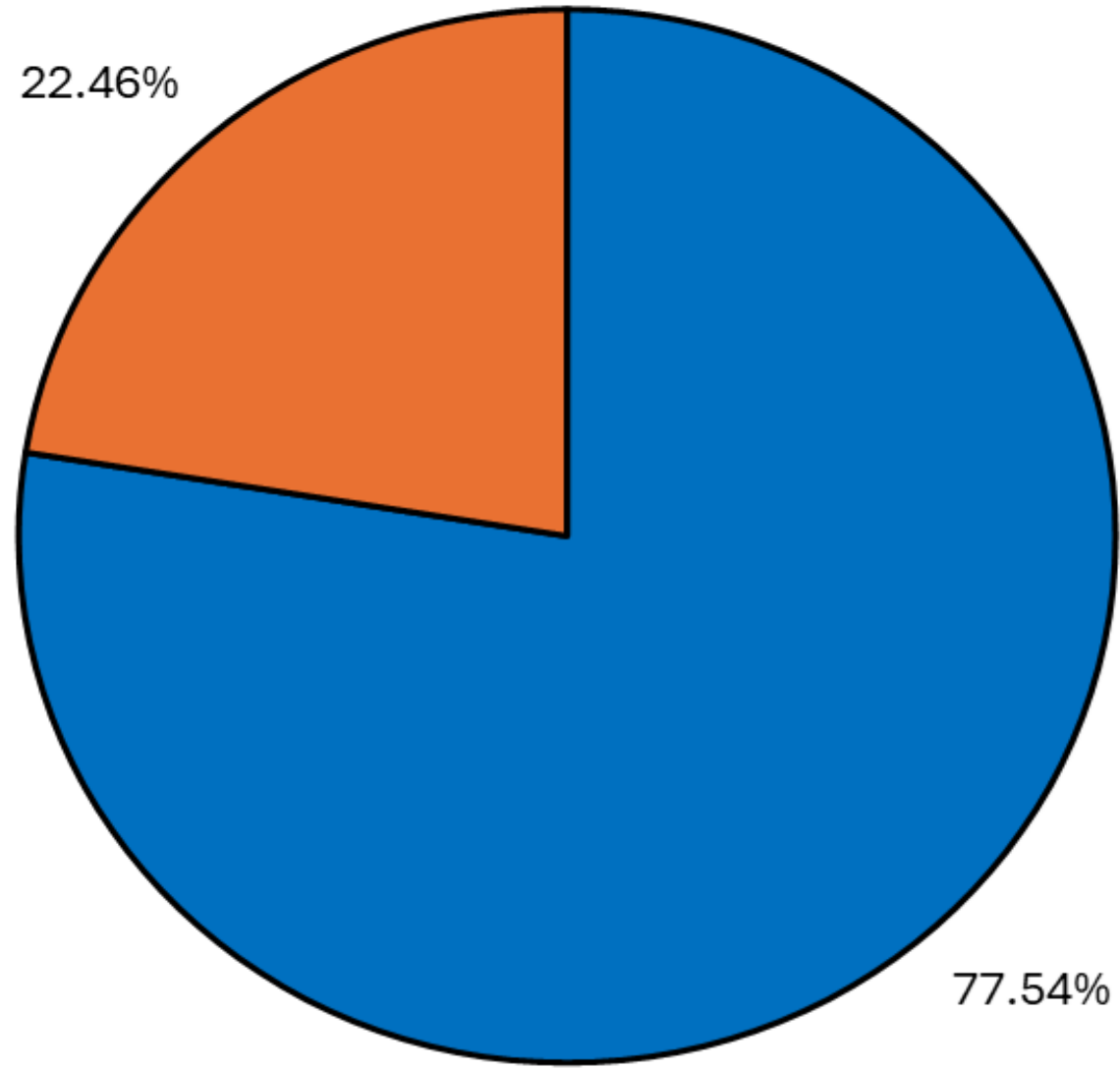
## CORROSIVES





# Non-HSP vs. HSP (June 2025)

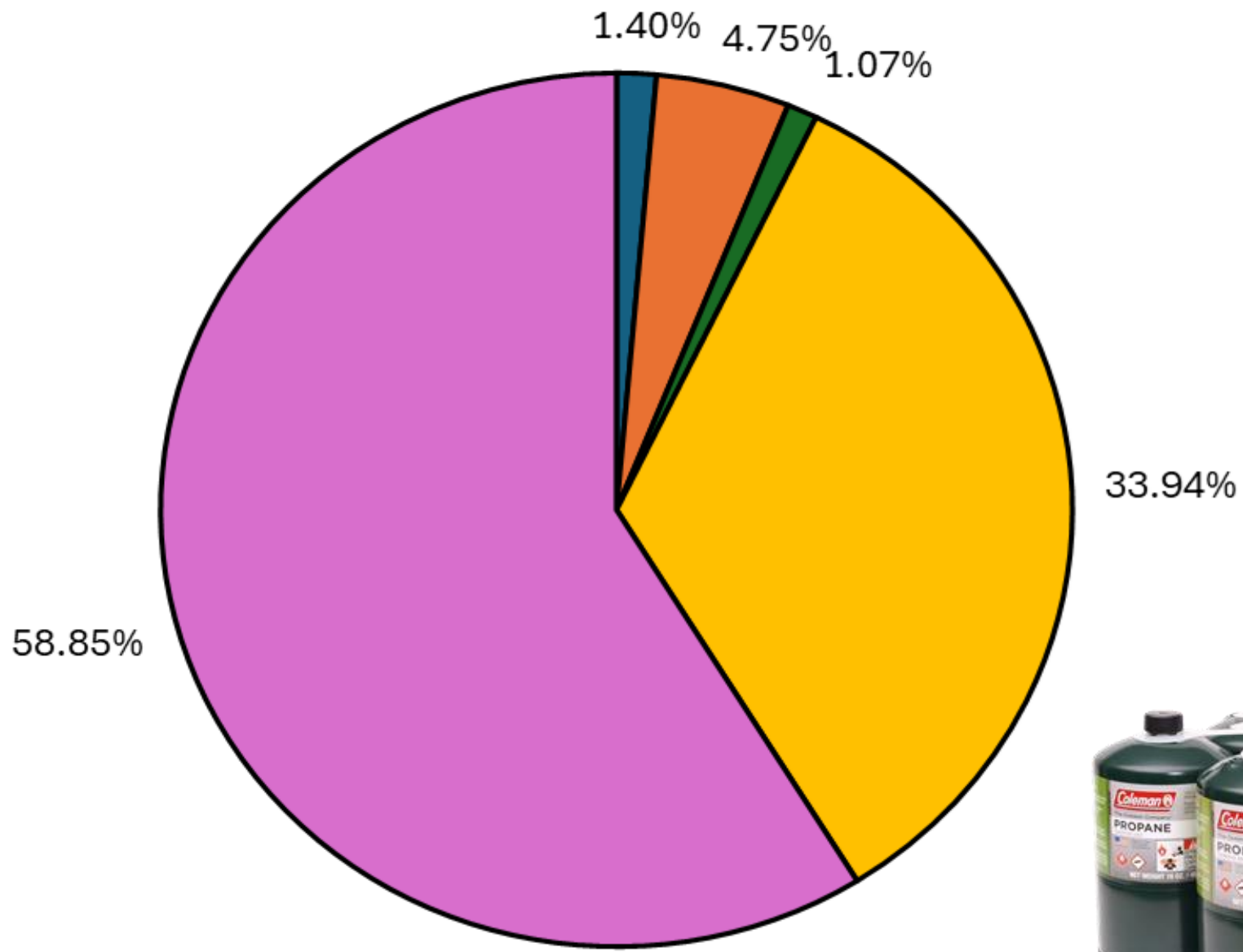
- Total Non-HSP
- Total HSP





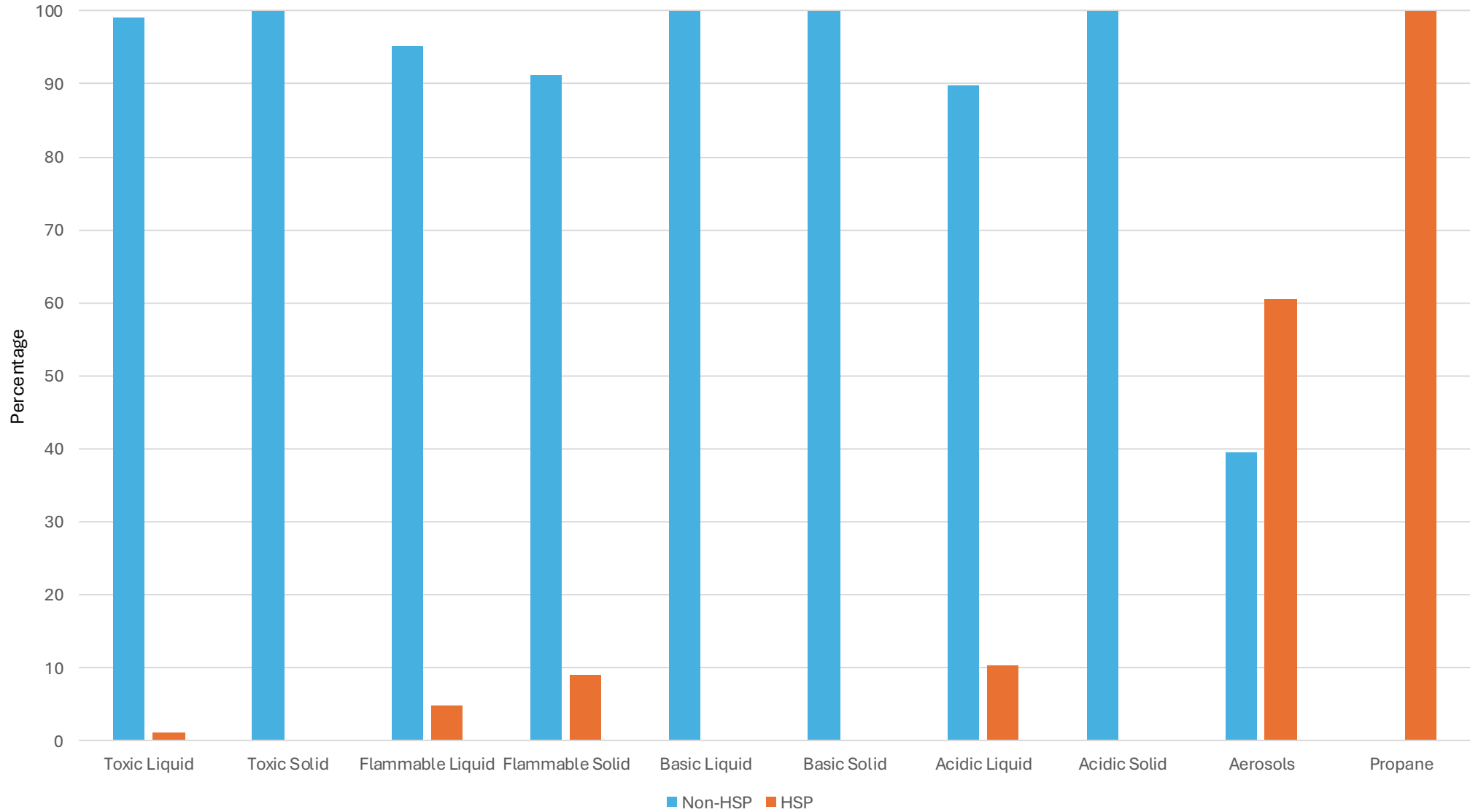
# HSP Breakdown (June 2025)

- Toxic
- Flammable
- Corrosive
- Aerosols
- Propane





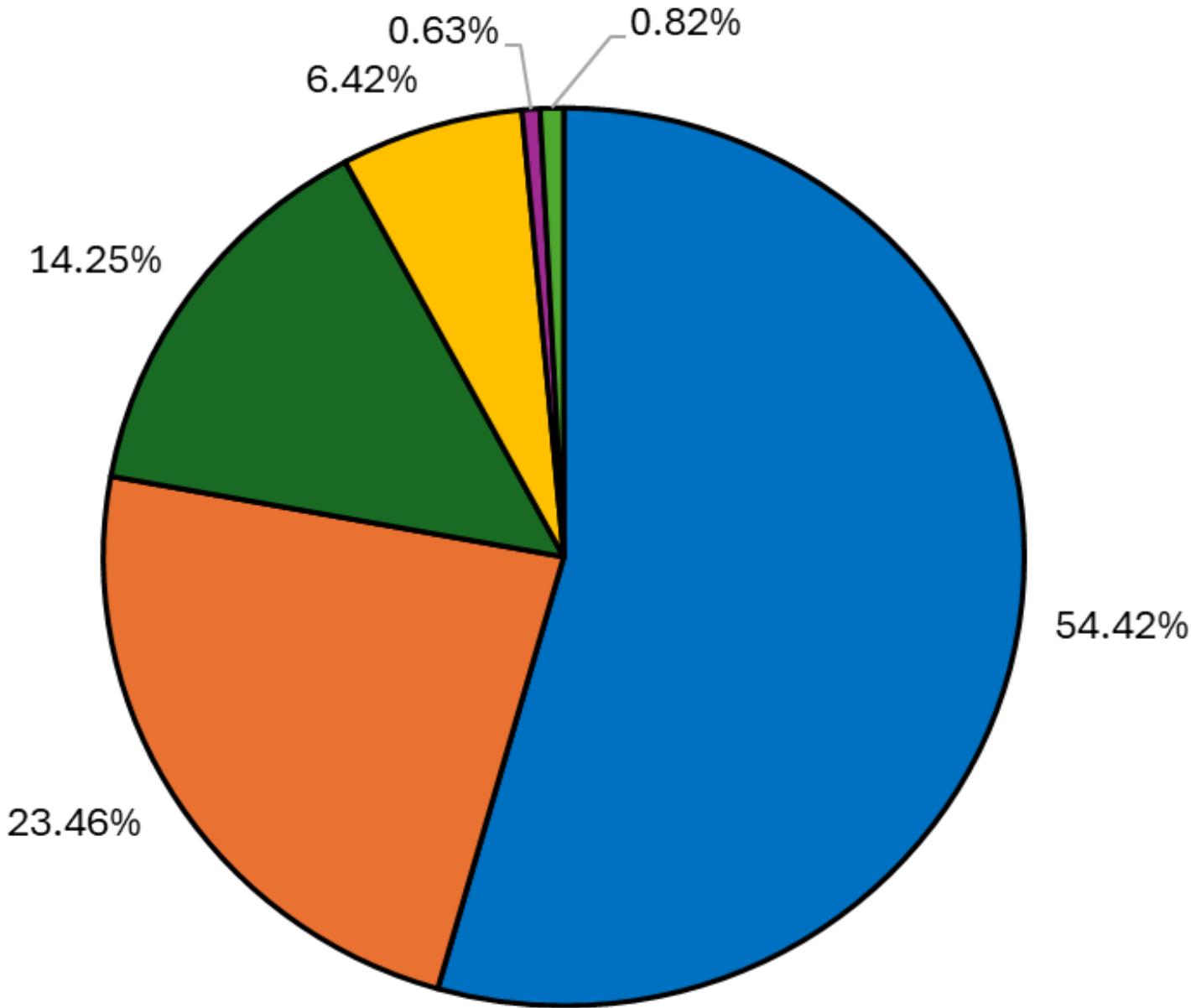
# Non-HSP & HSP Breakdown (June 2025)





# Non-HSP Breakdown (June 2025)

- Toxic
- Flammable
- Corrosive
- Aerosols
- Oxidizers
- PCB



## City of Calgary HSP Pilot Methodology

### Objective 2

A detailed photographic inventory was conducted. Images were captured for every item contained within the following non-HSP containers:

- 4 toxic liquid drums
- 4 toxic solid drums
- 4 flammable liquid drums
- 2 flammable solid drums
- 4 basic liquid drums
- 1 basic solid drum
- 1 acidic liquid drum
- 1 aerosol bulk bag

Note: No acidic solid items were photographed due to their general scarcity in the waste stream.

## Non-HSP Items: Reason For HSP Program Exclusion

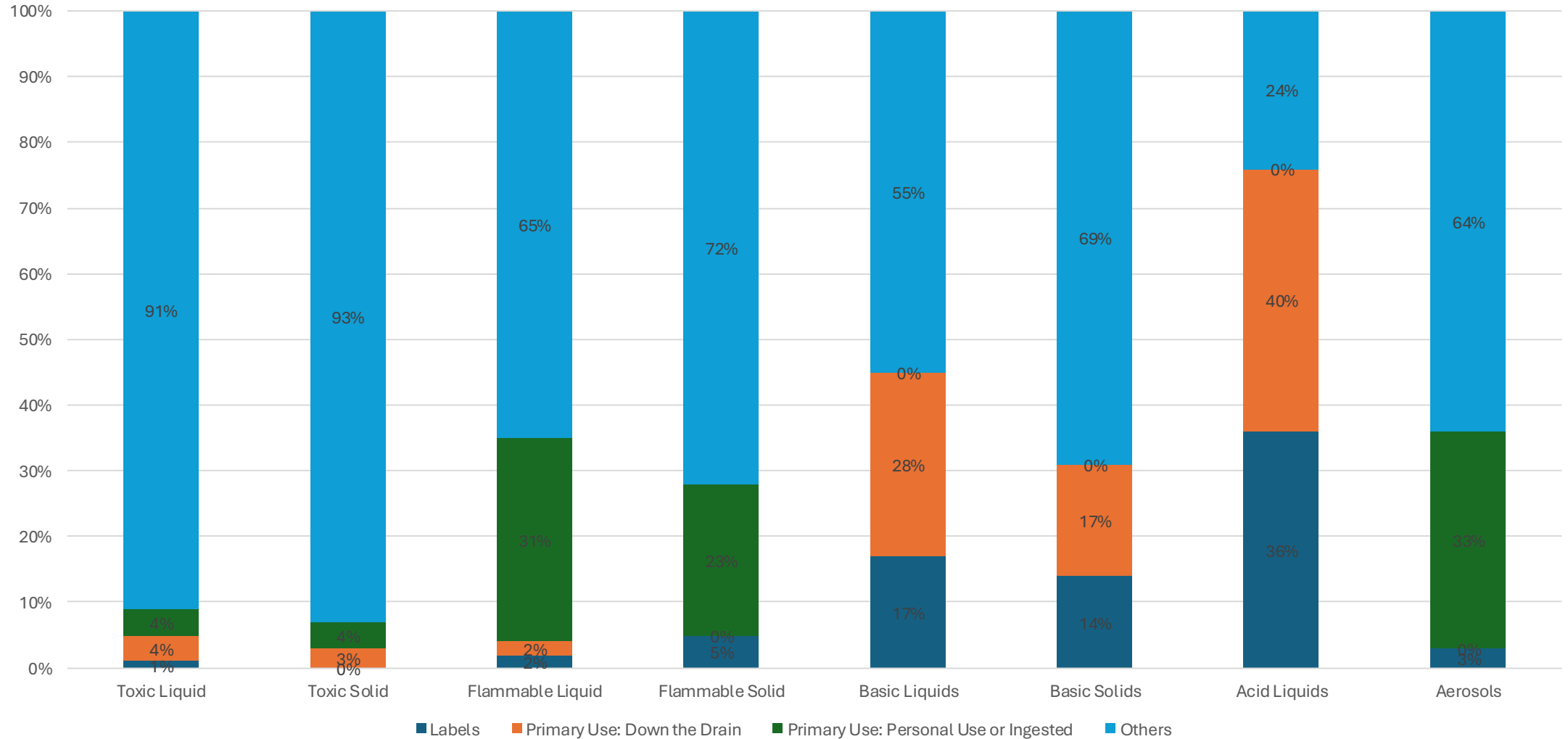
There are three primary reasons for exclusion:

1. Items are excluded simply for not containing the correct symbol as described by Product Care decision tree.
2. Items are excluded if they go down the drain during their intended primary use.
3. Items are excluded if they are self-applied to skin or ingested during their primary use.





# HSP Exclusions in Non-HSP Materials (June 2025)



## Recommendations to improve the Alberta HSP Programs

1. Strengthen the HSP Classification Framework
2. Eliminate the HSP Program Exclusions
3. Regularly review and assess HSP program material coverage



# Thanks to The City of Calgary HHW Team



Luznel



Luisa



Jay



Tom



Dom

Calgary

